

Message Text

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10/65

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00

NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /056 W

----- 078538

P R 080215Z OCT 75

FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3889

INFO SECDEF WASHDC PRIORITY

AMCONSUL NAHA

JCS WASHDC

CINCPAC HONOLULU HAWAII

AMCONSUL FUKUOKA

COMCAS IWAKUNI JAPAN

COMUSJAPAN YOKOTA JAPAN

COMNAVFORJAPAN YOKOSUKA JAPAN

C O N F I D E N T I A L TOKYO 14300

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y FOR EO TAGS AND SUBJECT LINES

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR, JA

SUBJECT: PRESS REPORTS ON RELOCATION 1ST MAW IWAKUNI TO OKINAWA

REF: A) COMUSJAPAN 030527Z OCT 75

B) JCS 230002Z AUG 75

SUMMARY: PRESS REPORTS RUMORS OF RELOCATION OF 1ST MARINE AIR WING (MAW), FROM IWAKUNI TO OKINAWA. REQUEST AUTHORITY TO INFORM GOJ IN CONFIDENCE OF SCOPE OF USMC PROPOSALS NOW UNDER CONSIDERATION. END SUMMARY

1. REF A (REPEATED FOR YOUR INFORMATION) TRANSLATES SANKEI SHINBUN IWAKUNI LOCAL EDITION OCTOBER 1 REPORT TO THE EFFECT THAT "A RUMOR IS GOING AROUND IN TOWN THAT MAJORITY OF THE 1ST MARINE AIRCRAFT WING...WILL BE MOVING TO OKINAWA". IWAKUNI
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PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICER HAS RESPONDED ACCORDING TO THE PAPER

THAT "ANY RELOCATION ACTION INVOLVING THE FIRST MARINE AIRCRAFT WING WOULD ONLY BE IN THE REVIEWING STAGE AT THIS TIME".

2. EMBASSY BELIEVES THAT RUMORS OF A MOVE OF THIS SCOPE, WHICH ARE FAR BEYOND THE DISCUSSION OF A MOVE OF HEADQUARTERS ELEMENTS OF 1ST MAW NOW TAKING PLACE IN WASHINGTON (REF B) WILL CREATE UNSETTLING POLITICAL REACTION IN BOTH IWAKUNI AND OKINAWA, AND PLACE GOJ IN EMBARRASSING POSITION. RUMORS WILL ALSO TEND TO UNDERMINE THE CREDIBILITY OF THE CONSULTATIVE ARRANGEMENTS WE ARE TRYING TO STRENGTHEN IN AFTERMATH OF SECDEF VISIT. IT IS ESSENTIAL, THEREFORE, THAT WE INFORM GOJ IMMEDIATELY OF THE GENERAL SCOPE OF USMC PROPOSALS UNDER CONSIDERATION. REQUEST AUTHORITY TO INFORM JAPANESE GOVERNMENT THAT:

A. THERE IS UNDER DISCUSSION IN WASHINGTON A PROPOSAL TO MOVE THE HEADQUARTERS ELEMENT OF THE 1ST MAW TO OKINAWA IN ORDER TO COLLOCATE HQ WITH 3MAF AT ZUKERAN. NO DECISIONS HAVE BEEN MADE. WE WILL DISCUSS WITH THE GOJ THE TIMING AND GENERAL NATURE OF THE PLANNED MOVES PRIOR TO TAKING ANY FINAL DECISIONS.

B. USG IS NOT CONSIDERING ANY PLAN TO MOVE THE MAJOR ELEMENT OF THE MAW TO OKINAWA, AND ANY RUMOR TO THAT EFFECT IS WITHOUT FOUNDATION.

3. BELIEVE THIS SHOULD PREPARE GROUND FOR A MORE REALISTIC DISCUSSION IN JAPAN OF USG PROPOSAL IF APPROVED IN WASHINGTON, AND REMOVE BASIS FOR GROUNDSWELL OF REACTION WHICH MAY BE CREATED IF SPECULATION CONTINUES THAT RELOCATION OF ENTIRE MAW MAY BE UNDER CONSIDERATION.

4. REQUEST RESPONSES ASAP IN VIEW OF RUTHER SPECULATION AND INQUIRIES WE EXPECT.
SHOESMITH

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